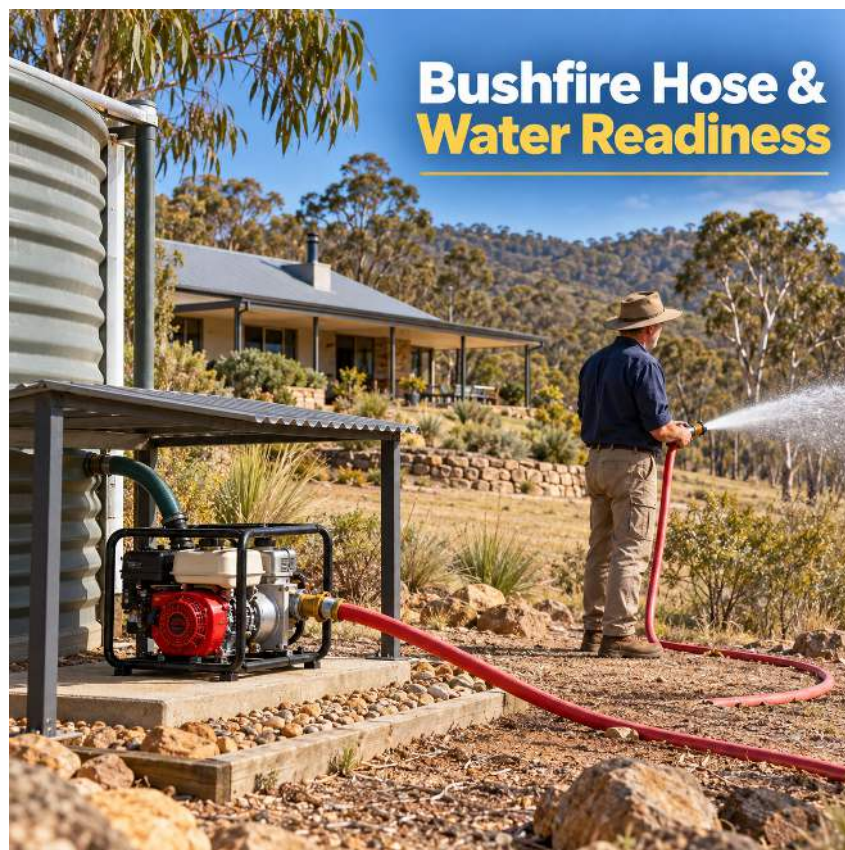


Bushfire Hose & Water System Readiness Guide

A modern Australian pre-season companion to the Hose & Water System Dry Run

Use this guide to test the complete water-delivery system before the dangerous part of the fire season: hose reach, independent water, pump performance, heat protection and failure backup.



Life-safety rule

Equipment is not a reason to stay. Leaving early is the safest option. If you are considering active property defence, use current fire-service guidance for your location and assess people, water, pump capacity, hose, heat protection and backup plans as one system.

Best used for

Pre-season testing, recording faults, household discussion and planning repairs.

Not a substitute for

Fireground tactics, hydraulic design, agency doctrine or current emergency directions.

Quick-reference infographic

Print this page for the shed, pump area or household emergency folder. The following pages explain the checks in more detail.

FireRescue
AUSTRALIA

Bushfire Hose & Water System Dry Run

CHECK TEST PREPARE BEFORE BUSHFIRE SEASON

1 REACH



- ✓ Reaches all intended areas
- ✓ No kinks or damage
- ✓ Correct fittings



2 SOURCE



- ✓ Independent water identified
- ✓ Usable volume known
- ✓ Mains failure considered



3 PUMP



- ✓ Starts reliably
- ✓ Tested from real source
- ✓ Matched to pipe/hose system



4 PROTECTION



- ✓ Pump shielded from heat
- ✓ Vulnerable fittings reviewed
- ✓ Metal fittings where required



5 FAILURE



- ✓ Spare fittings
- ✓ Backup plan
- ✓ Life safety does not depend on equipment



EQUIPMENT IS NOT A REASON TO STAY.

WHEN IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, LEAVE EARLY.

AUSTRALIAN
FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM
(AFDRS)



No Rating



Moderate



High



Extreme



Catastrophic

How to run the dry run

Do the test in normal safe conditions, well before a high-risk fire day. Use the actual source, pump, hose and fittings you intend to rely on. Record anything that does not work as expected.

Do not create false confidence

A pump that starts briefly, a tank that is partly full or a hose that only just reaches is not the same as a reliable system. Test realistic operating conditions and fix problems before the season.

1. REACH

- Deploy the full hose run and confirm it reaches every intended area without being stretched tight.
- Inspect for cuts, cracking, abrasion, heat damage, brittleness and rodent/insect damage.
- Check couplings, washers, nozzles and compatible spare fittings.
- Test under normal operating pressure and confirm usable flow at the furthest point.

2. SOURCE

- Identify the actual water source that supplies the hose or pump.
- Record the usable water volume, not just the nominal tank size.
- Consider what happens if mains water pressure drops or the mains supply fails.
- Confirm the suction point, tank outlet or water pickup is accessible and maintained.

3. PUMP

- Start the pump from the real water source and confirm it primes reliably.
- Run it long enough to identify overheating, fuel, suction or pressure problems.
- Confirm pump performance matches pipework, hose length, elevation and simultaneous outlets.
- Follow the manufacturer servicing and fuel-storage instructions.

Faults / actions to complete

Item	Issue found	Action / person	Due

Complete the system check

4. PROTECTION

- Review the pump location for radiant-heat exposure and ember attack.
- Identify vulnerable plastic pipes, fittings, controls or fuel lines.
- Use heat-resistant / metal fittings where current agency guidance and the system design require them.
- Make sure the pump can be operated without entering an unsafe exposure area.

5. FAILURE

- Keep compatible spare fittings, seals and basic repair items where they can be found quickly.
- Have a backup plan if the pump will not start or a hose/coupling fails.
- Plan for mains electricity and mains water failure.
- Do not allow equipment failure to remove your life-safety option.

Active property defence is a much higher-risk decision

A garden hose, water tank or pump does not by itself make a property defensible. Current agency guidance for people considering defence includes substantial independent water, purpose-suitable hose, protected pumping, protective clothing, physically capable adults and realistic backup plans. Never plan to defend on Catastrophic days.

Agency guidance to verify before the season

Topic	What to verify locally
Water	Whether your jurisdiction specifies an independent water volume for active defence.
Pump	Heat protection, fuel type, pump capacity, priming and servicing requirements.
Hose	Purpose-suitable hose, fittings, heat resistance and full property reach.
Sprinklers	Whether the system needs technical design, independent water and specific standards.
Leave trigger	Current Fire Danger Rating, warning channels and early-leaving advice.

System design, limits and sign-off

The complete system matters more than any single component. Pump specifications, tank volume and hose size only become meaningful when they are assessed together.

Water source

Know the **usable** volume, suction arrangement and what remains available if mains water fails.

Pump & hose

Match pump performance to suction conditions, elevation, pipework, hose length and simultaneous outlets.

Failure planning

Keep life safety independent of the equipment. A failed pump or hose must never trap you into staying.

Quick safety notes

- **Burns:** cool under cool running water for at least 20 minutes. Do not use ice, creams or lotions.
- **Smoke:** moving away from smoke is more protective than relying on a face covering. A correctly fitted P2/N95 can reduce fine-particle exposure but does not make a fire environment safe.
- **Fuel and pumps:** store and handle fuel according to manufacturer instructions and applicable fire restrictions.
- **Private systems:** firefighters may not be able to rely on a private tank, pump or fitting until its condition and compatibility are confirmed.

Pre-season sign-off

Date tested		Tested by	
Pump serviced	■ Yes ■ No	Hoses checked	■ Yes ■ No
Water volume confirmed	■ Yes ■ No	Backup plan reviewed	■ Yes ■ No
Next review due		Notes	

Reminder

If your plan is to leave early, keep the property and equipment maintained without allowing equipment tasks to delay departure. If you are considering active defence, use current fire-service guidance and have the system assessed, tested and practised well before the season.

Sources and further reading

Use current agency information for your location. Recheck these sources before each fire season because guidance, terminology and legal requirements can change.

CFA - Defending your property

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety/your-fire-plan/defending-your-property>

CFA - Equipment needed to defend

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety/your-fire-plan/defending-your-property/equipment-you-need-to-defend-your-property>

CFA - Preparing to defend

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety/your-fire-plan/defending-your-property/preparing-to-defend-your-property>

NSW RFS - Prepare your property

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property>

Queensland Fire Department - Prepare for bushfires

<https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/prepare/bushfire/prepare-for-bushfires>

Queensland Fire Department - Stay and defend

<https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/prepare/bushfire/will-you-stay>

SA Country Fire Service - Preparing your property

<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/preparing-your-home-property.jsp>

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

<https://afdrs.com.au/>

Healthdirect - Burns and scalds

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/burns-and-scalds>

General disclaimer

This PDF provides general educational information for an Australian audience. It does not replace site-specific hydraulic or pump design, professional bushfire advice, agency procedures or current directions from emergency authorities. Firefighting equipment cannot guarantee survival or property protection. During an emergency, follow official warnings and directions.

Prepared by FireRescue Training Hub

Author context: Ken Walker - former Station Officer and fire-service educator with career and volunteer firefighting experience.

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